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Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03586 162321Z

65
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 /031 W
---------- 084083
P R 161556Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECDEF PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6295

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3586

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SEC AF SHRONTZ FROM CHARGE TANGUY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, NL
SUBJECT: YF-16 STEERING COMMITTEE

REF: THE HAGUE 3266; OSAF P 031950Z JUL 75 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR,GENERAL STOKLA SAW ME JULY 15 AT HIS REQUEST TO PURSUE THE QUESTION OF THE POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OR CHAIRMAN OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE F-16 PRODUCTION PROGRAM AND HIS INTEREST IN FILLING THAT POSITION. STOKLA REFERRED TOTHE RECENT MEETING IN BRUSSELS WITH YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE BUT INDICATED THAT HE HAD NOT GOTTEN A CLEAR SIGNAL RE US THINKING AND INTENTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED AND REITERATED SEVERAL TIMES HIS BELIEF THAT THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION SHOULD HAVE SOME INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT SERVE SIMPLY AS A PAPER-PUSHER. SPECIFICALLY, HE BELIEVES THAT THE INCUMBENT OF THE POSITION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A MEMBER OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WITH THE RIGHT TO PRARTICPATE IN ALL MEETINGS AND THE DUTY TO PREPARE THE AGENDA FOR EACH MEETING. HE SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COUNTRY FROM WHICH HE COMES, ANALO-GOUS TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO OR SIMILAR POSTIIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, STOKLA SAID, THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEED NOT HAVE VOTING RIGHTS IN THE COMMITTEE.
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2. HAVING DEFINED HIS CONCEPTION OF THE POSITION, STOKLA INDICATED THAT HE WAS STILL INTERESTED IN BEING APPOINTED TO IT ON THAT BASIS BUT WAS DEFINITELY NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN ANY SMALLER CONFIGURATION OF THE JOB REGARDLESS OF WHAT TITLE MIGHT BE APPLIED TO IT. HIS REQUEST TO ME WAS SIMPLY TO CONVEY THESE VIEWS TO YOU AND TO ASK FOR WHATEVER REACTION YOU MIGHT HAVE.

3. ALTHOUGH STOKLA OBVIOUSLY HOPED TO HAVE SOME RESPONSE FROM YOU IN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO, MY OWN JUDGMENT IN WHICH COL. MILLER CONCURS IS THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO FIRST DISCUSS THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY WITH AMBASSADOR GOULD WHO, I UNDERSTAND, IS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. I AM PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE THE HAGUE ON TRANSFER BACK TO WASHINGTON AT THE END OF JULY, BUT AM AVAILABLE IN THE MEANWHILE TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY OR TO ELICIT FURTHERREFINEMENTS FROM STOKLA IF YOU SO DESIRE.

4. BOTH COL MILLER AND OUR NEW AIR ATTACHE, COL KIENZLE, HAVE SEEN AND CONCUR IN THIS MESSAGE. REGARDS.
TANGUY

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